

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 LAB-04

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /101 W

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O 141352Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2108

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORG, ELAB

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN CANDIDACY FOR ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY

REF: STATE 173379

SUMMARY: EMBASSY CONTACTED FOREIGN, SOCIAL AND COMMERCE AND
SHIPPING MINISTRIES AND NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION TO
EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE

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FROM NORWAY'S LATE DECISION TO PRESENT A CANDIDATE FOR ILO

MARITIME CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY. EMBASSY EMPHASIZED OUR HIGH REGARD FOR HAREIDE'S QUALIFICATIONS, BUT DOUBTS AS TO POLITICAL WISDOM OF PRESENTING HIS CANDIDACY NOW, AS EXPRESSED REFTEL. NORWEGIANS PROMISED TO CONSIDER OUR VIEWS. CONSIDERATION MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO VACATION SEASON. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL TO FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL KJELL COLDING (POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL KJELL VIBE AND FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ARE BOTH AWAY ON VACATION.) CHARGE NOTED THAT USG HAD HIGHEST REGARD FOR HAREIDE'S EXCELLENT WORK AT PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND FOR HIS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, USG WAS CONCERNED THAT IMEC COUNTRY UNITY COULD BE JEOPARDIZED BY THE GON'S DECISION TO PUT HAREIDE FORWARD AS A CANDIDATE AT THIS LATE DATE. AND, CHARGE NOTED, DISUNITY COULD LEAD TO THE CANDIDACY OR ELECTION OF AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WHICH, AS GON KNEW, WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR USG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ILO.

2. COLDING OBSERVED THAT GON HAD BEEN FROM THE OUTSET AWARE THAT PUTTING FORWARD HAREIDE MIGHT ENCOURAGE EAST EUROPEANS TO PUT FORWARD OWN NOMINATION. COLDING SAID GON WAS AWARE OF USG VIEWS ON EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION TO THE POST AND WAS PREPARED TO RECONSIDER NORWEGIAN NOMINATION. HE STATED THAT NORWAY'S POSSIBLE INTEREST IN PRESENTING HAREIDE'S CANDIDACY HAD BEEN WELL KNOWN IN GENEVA CIRCLES LONG BEFORE HAREIDE'S NAME FORMALLY PROPOSED AND NOTED IN PASSING THAT IT WOULD BE EQUALLY APPROPRIATE TO ASK JAPANESE TO WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATE. NEVERTHELESS, COLDING PROMISED GON WOULD TAKE OUR VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION AND KEEP US INFORMED.

3. CHARGE ALSO CONVEYED OUR VIEWS TO COMMERCE AND SHIPPING UNDER SECRETARY PER MATING OLBERG. (MINISTER BAKKE IS AWAY ON VACATION. COMMERCE AND SHIPPING IS DEPARTMENT MOST DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN THE MARITIME CONFERENCE ITSELF.) OLBERG TOOK NOTE OF USG VIEWS AND ALSO STATED THAT ANOTHER OPTION WOULD BE TO THE JAPANESE TO WITHDRAW. OLBERG SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND GET BACK TO US.

4. EMBASSY CONVEYED OUR VIEWS TO SOCIAL MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL EMIL VINDSETMO. (SOCIAL MINISTRY HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ILO MATTERS WITHIN NORWAY ALONG WITH FOREIGN AND LABOR MINISTRIES.) VINDSETMO ALSO LISTENED WITH INTEREST, THANKED EMBASSY FOR PRESENTING VIEWS AND SAID GON WOULD TAKE UP QUESTION AND TRY TO REACH CONCLUSION WITHIN GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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BILITY FOR ILO MATTERS WITHIN NORWAY ALONG WITH FOREIGN AND LABOR MINISTRIES.) VINDSETMO ALSO LISTENED WITH INTEREST, THANKED EMBASSY FOR PRESENTING VIEWS AND SAID GON WOULD TAKE UP QUESTION AND TRY TO REACH CONCLUSION WITHIN GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. EMBASSY ALSO SPOKE TO NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT TOR ASPENGREN. ASPENGREN LISTENED CAREFULLY, EXPRESSED

APPRECIATION FOR THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SITUATION AND SAID HE
WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH SEAMEN'S UNION PRESIDENT HENRIK
AASAROD. ASPENGREN PHONED BACK TO SAY AASAROD WOULD CONTACT
EMBASSY WHEN HE IS IN TOWN JULY 20 AND LO WOULD CONSIDER
MATTER AFTER AASAROD AND EMBASSY HAD CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT.
COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW MATTER AND REPORT DEVELOPMENTS,
SINCE WE GATHER IT WAS A CABINET -LEVEL DECISION TO PUT HAREIDE
FORWARD, AND BECAUSE MOST NORWEGIANS ARE ON VACATION IN JULY,
IT MAY BE A WHILE BEFORE WE GET A CONCRETE RESPONSE FROM THE
GON.
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